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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: August 24, 1990
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TAT
Subject: New Vernon Road - Asbestos Millington Dump,
Meyersville, New Jersey
POLREP NO.: Polrep One (1)

II. BACKGROUND

SITE/SPILL NO.: 6G
D.O. NO.: 7445-02-090
RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA/SARA
NPL STATUS: NPL
START DATE: August 23, 1990
APPROVAL STATUS: Verbal authorization from Division
Director on August 23, 1990.
STATUS OF ACTION MEMORANDUM: Pending

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Type of Incident

The New Vernon Road - Asbestos Millington Dump is a satellite site, of operable unit two, under the NPL project, Asbestos Dump site. The other two satellite sites are the Dietzman Tract and the White Bridge Road site. Operable unit one is the Millington site. The site consists of approximately 30 acres of land.

The land at the site was used as a corn and dairy cattle farm from 1945 until 1980. However, in the late 1960s, for a period of approximately two years, refuse from National Gypsum was landfilled in two areas at this location. The refuse included loose asbestos fibers, broken asbestos tiles and siding. A small depression in the westernmost corner was filled first. Then a larger depression in the middle of

ABD 002 0214

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the property was filled. The property was purchased by the Tiemanns in 1980 and, graded and seeded. Currently there are 5 persons living on-site; the husband and wife, each approximately 35 years old; two children, 5 years and 11 months old; and a female tenant, approximately 35 years old.

According to the draft Remedial Investigation report, the New Vernon Road Asbestos Site contains asbestos wastes in a small landfill area in front of the private residence, in the main landfill area in the center of the property, along the dirt path that traverses north-south along the middle of the property, and in the area of the shed located next to the private residence. The thickness of the waste is not known.

B. Preliminary Assessment Results

The RAB conducted a reconnaissance of the site on March 22, 1990 and a site visit, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) project manager, Sid Mitra and representatives of the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Team (ERT), on June 28, 1990. The purpose of the site visit was to determine what additional sampling would be required, if any, to complete the removal assessment for the site. ERT was present, at the OSC's request, to provide technical assistance for the evaluation. The FWS has an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with the U.S. EPA to provide technical support for the RI/FS for operable unit two.

Based on ERT recommendations, the RAB collected soil and dust samples from the site on August 2, 1990. The soil samples were collected from various points at the surface of the driveway and the shed, and a dust sample was collected from the homeowner's vacuum cleaner. Samples were analyzed for % asbestos content and type of asbestos fiber using the Transmission Electron Microscopy Method (TEM). The analytical data revealed 2-5% friable chrysotile asbestos in the home and surface soil.

A release of asbestos to the soil, through past disposal and filling operations, has occurred at the New Vernon Road Asbestos Site. The driveway at the house, which leads to the main asbestos landfill area at the rear of the property, is covered/paved with pulverized asbestos tile that becomes dusty during dry periods. The homeowner, and his on-site business, appears to occasionally access this road with large trucks. A delapidated shed near the house contains asbestos on its dirt floor surface. The probability of asbestos fibers being entrained by the wind and transported on or off-site appears high.

The Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will be issuing a health advisory, stating that the site poses an imminent health threat, and calling for; an immediate,

ABD 002 0215

MDE 0016661

temporary relocation of the residents from their home at the site; medical monitoring of the on-site residents, and additional sampling.

Based on this, and the recent analytical data revealing elevated levels of fibrous asbestos in the surface soils and in the house (2-5% chrysotile), it is apparent that either a release of asbestos to the air may have occurred and/or is currently occurring at this site, or the material has been carried into the home by the residents of the site. Due to the presence of residents, including two children at the house on the site, and the potential for off-site migration, a removal action will be conducted to mitigate the potential and existing threats that are posed by the presence of asbestos in the surface soils and the residential home. The action will include a relocation of the residents, should they accept. ERT will provide sampling of additional residential homes in the area, initially in the immediate area of the site and later, in conjunction with the FWS, in an extended area.

C. Situation

The majority of the site is grassy and well maintained. The front of the property shows no evidence of the past fill area. The main house is located adjacent to the north-south roadway which almost bisects the property. This road extends to the west approximately 1,000 feet into an open area (main landfill area). This area is cluttered with tree trunks and logs. Prior to reaching the open area, the road branches to the north, approximately 300 feet, where Mr. Tillman has a tree servicing business. The business maintains several large trucks and a two story building. Another road exits the property from this operation on the north west side.

The main road adjacent to the house appears to be well maintained with gravel by the homeowner. However, the condition of the road degrades approximately 50-100 feet north of the house. At this point, the road has little if any gravel remaining and is white in color from suspect-asbestos material. The asbestos tiles that were placed on the driveway, having been crushed through years of activity on the property, are now either small chips or completely pulverized. The amount of asbestos material on the road appears to increase considerably to the north. The road adjacent to the business is well maintained with gravel. At the main landfill area towards the rear of the property, the road is covered with wood chips, making it difficult to visibly distinguish any asbestos.

The shed is located approximately 100 feet south of the house. It is a dilapidated old structure, approximately 20 feet by 80 feet, that was present at the site before the

ABD 002 0216

MDE 0016662

current owners purchased the property in 1980. The roof has partially collapsed and there are no doors or windows present. The dirt floor of the shed appears to contain suspect-asbestos material.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Status of Actions

Verbal authorization was obtained from the Division Director at 1100 hours on August 23, 1990. The ERCS contractor, O.H.M., was issued a Delivery Order and within hours was available to provide temporary relocation for the residents at the site. That same day, the OSC accompanied by the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) and a representative from ATSDR, visited the homeowner to discuss the analytical data, its implications, the need for immediate temporary relocation and the removal action.

After several hours, the homeowners and the tenant decided to stay in their home for another week or so in order to consider their options.

B. Next Steps

Temporary actions will be initiated at the site, while the homeowner is still present, in order to lessen potential exposures. Heavy rains during the entire week have saturated the roadways and fields at the site, providing temporary relief of any potential airborne contaminants. The homeowner has been instructed not to access the rear portion of his site and the accompanying roadway. A site visit with the O.H.M response manager is scheduled to take place on August 27.

ATSDR and the New Jersey Department of Health are arranging for medical examinations for the entire family and the tenant. They are also potentially considering exams for a part-time maid and the husband's employees in the future.

Relocation activities will be coordinated by Headquarters through the Army Corps of Engineers.

C. Key Issues

The homeowner has expressed frustrations as to why this is all occurring at this time. She has attempted for years to have someone determine if there was a problem at the site or to try to get the attention of a regulatory agency.

The relocation of the business is a key issue for the homeowner, since it is also on the property.

Sampling inside additional homes near the site took place on

ABD 002 0217

MDE 0016663

August 24, based on homeowner availability. Results are expected next week.

FURTHER
POLREPS
FINAL POLREP _____ FORTHCOMING X SUBMITTED BY Nick Magriples
Nick Magriples, CSC
Removal Action
Branch

DATE 8/24/90

ABD 002 0218

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